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From the Office of the EMS Medical Director:

Subject: **Continuous Infusion of Medication During Interfacility Patient Transport**

As the result of a recent submission, the KCFD Patient Safety Organization performed an extensive review of the continuous infusion of medication during interfacility patient transport.

For reference, below is the applicable section from the current KCMO EMS Medical Policies and Procedures (May 2013):

Medical Standards during Patient Transfer Policy

I. Medication Administration

A. During the transfer of patients between health care facilities, paramedics may be required to monitor the intravenous infusion of medications and/or blood products, or administer medications and/or blood products not approved by the EMS Medical Director for use in the prehospital setting (nonstandard medications).

B. Policy

1. The paramedic may monitor and administer nonstandard medications prescribed by the patient's transferring physician with on-line medical control guidance during the patient transfer as needed.

Medications requiring continuous infusion will be administered via a mechanical infusion pump:

- a) Understanding of a mechanical infusion pump is the paramedic's responsibility (i.e. if the paramedic does not understand, then the paramedic should not leave the facility until it has been explained.)
 - b) If the paramedic is asked to manipulate more drugs or devices than the paramedics thinks is appropriate, then the paramedic should notify the appropriate personnel at the transferring hospital. If the problem cannot be solved, then the paramedic should contact a supervisor.
2. The administration of any nonstandard medications shall be recorded on the patient care report (PCR) noting the transferring physician's name, medical control contacted, and dosage and route of administration of medication.

As a result of the review, the follow Patient Care Directives are being instituted:

1-Any medication currently being administered by an IV infusion pump or requiring continuous infusion at a specified rate will be maintained on and only administered by an IV infusion pump. (Exception: Normal Saline or Lactated Ringers)

2-Any medication administered by IV infusion pump which will not be continued during transport shall be completely disconnected from the patient.

3-Medication flow rates will not be adjusted or titrated during patient transport unless specifically ordered by the transferring physician or medical control.

Respectfully,
Jay H. Reich, MD FACEP
EMS Medical Director